



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

**MAILED**

**SEP 19 2012**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

Gerald L. Thomas  
1936 N. Sawyer Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60647

In re Patent No. 6,597,281	:	
Issued: July 22, 2003	:	ON PETITION
Application No. 09/675,177	:	
Filed: September 29, 2000	:	
Attorney Docket No. 99-1833	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed June 22, 2012, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The patent issued on July 22, 2003. The patent expired on July 23, 2011, for failure to timely remit the second maintenance fee.

This petition was filed timely under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c) because it was filed within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e). Accordingly, the maintenance fee in this case is accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3211.

/Christina Tartera Donnell/

Christina Tartera Donnell  
Senior Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions